

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [010], starting at page 5 and ending at page 6, as follows:

-- [010] In another aspect, the substrate may be a bio-absorbable gel. The substrate may include a bio-absorbable material having a predetermined thickness designed to last for a predetermined time period required for healing of the lesion so as to protect the tissue implant from conditions in the alimentary tract. The substrate may also include a therapeutic agent selected from a group consisting of human growth hormone, ~~generically~~ genetically engineered cells, antibiotics, analgesics, and pH sensitive or reactive chemicals. The therapeutic agent may be infused into the substrate, or be layered in a predetermined depth within the substrate so that the therapeutic agent may activate at a predetermined time. The substrate may have a first surface for receiving the tissue implant and a second surface opposite to the first surface for facing a lumen of the alimentary tract. The tissue implant may occupy an area in the first surface of the substrate, where the area may be less than the surface area of the first surface.

Please amend paragraph [071] at page 22, as follows:

-- [071] Fig. 14 shows how the endoluminal tissue patch 10 of the present invention, delivered to the site 22 endoluminally through an overtube or endoscope, would be used to fill and protect the region of exposed muscularis layer 27. The bottom surface 17a of the tissue patch may be placed in contact with the muscularis layer 27 while the top surface 18a faces toward the lumen of the esophagus 3. The bio-

absorbable gel layer 16 that covers the top of the tissue implant can be made thicker to ensure that it will last, for example, several days, serving to protect the tissue implant 11a from the harsh chemistry of the lower esophagus 3. The thinner bio-absorbable gel layer 15 on the bottom surface of the tissue implant 11a may only last long enough to protect the tissue implant 11 during its deployment to the treatment site 22. In addition, the bio-absorbable gel 12 could be infused with any of a number of therapeutic agents, such as, for example, Human Growth Hormone (HGH), ~~generically~~ genetically engineered cells, antibiotics, analgesics or anaesthetics, and/or pH sensitive or reactive chemistry. Over time, as the bio-absorbable gel is absorbed, these chemistries would be released into the site, promoting cell growth in the tissue patch and the surrounding esophageal tissue, relieving pain, preventing infection, and hastening the healing process. --